Departmental Enquiries

3009. SHRI K. D. SULTANPURI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and details of officers and other employees facing departmental enquiries for committing irregularities; and

(b) the number of officials against whom the challans have been filed in the courts during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected from the field units and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Efforts for the Education of Labourers

3010. SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to educate the labourers in unorganised sector about the provisions made under Labour Laws;

(b) if so, the details in this regard for the last three years; and

(c) the success achieved by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) The Central Board for Workers' Education has been constituted by the Government for educating of workers, including those in the unorganised sector, about their rights and obligations through periodic training programmes, seminars, camps etc. The number of workers trained by the Board during the last three years is given below:

Year	Total number of workers trained
1993-94	128264
1994-95	156424
1995-96	140121

Closure of Mines

3011. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the mines of raw material division of Bihar and Orissa proposed to be closed down by the SAIL;

(b) the details of mining of various mines of dolomite and limestone under the SAIL in Bihar during each of the last three years;

(c) the annual loss being incurred by the dolomite and limestone mines located at Bhavnathpur of Bihar; and

(d) the measures taken by the SAIL to reduce the loss of the aforesaid mine alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINSTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) The limestone produced in the Purnapani mine in Orissa and Bhawanathpur mine in Bihar are having high silica and alkali and are unfavourable to techno-economic norms of iron making. At present SAIL has not taken any decision to close down these mines.

(b) Despatches of Limestone and Dolomite from Bhawanathpur group of mines in Bihar during the last three years were as under:

Unit : 000T

Year	Bhawanathpur Group of Mines
1993-94	586
1994-95	655
1995-96	583
1996-97 (Upto February' 97)	453

(c) and (d) Raw Materials Division of SAIL is a cost centre. The actual expenditure is transferred to the SAIL plants at the actual cost of production. Hence no profit and loss is accounted for these mines.

[English]

Completion of Kumarghat-Agartala Rail Line

3012. SHRI BAJU BAN RIYAN :

SHRI BADAL CHOUDHURY :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the budgetary allocation during 1996-97 for extension of Railway line from Kumarghat to Agartala;

(b) the amount out of that spent so far;

(c) whether the Prime Minister has declared that extension of the above Railway line is likely to be completed within five years; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken so far in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Rs. 1 cr. has been allocated in Budget 96-97.

(b) Rs. 5 lakhs upto 31.12.96.

(c) Yes, Sir.